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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,038	01/20/2004	Junichi Hayashi	CFA00043US	3926
34904 7590 04/16/2007 CANON U.S.A. INC. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION 15975 ALTON PARKWAY IRVINE, CA 92618-3731			EXAMINER WANG, JIN CHENG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2628	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/16/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,038

Applicant(s)

HAYASHI, JUNICHI

Examiner

Jin-Cheng Wang

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 54-56 and 63-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 54-56 and 63-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/27/07
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 27, 2007 has been entered. Claims 1-48 and 57-62 have been canceled. Claims 54-56, 63-65 and 67-70 have been amended. Claims 67-70 have been newly added. Claims 54-56 and 63-70 are pending in the present application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed February 27, 2007 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection set forth in the this Office Action.

As addressed below, the Claim 54 is rejected as being anticipated by Matsunoshita US 2003/0179412 A1 (hereinafter Matsunoshita) or Shimada et al. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0021311 (hereinafter Shimada).

Shimada teaches an image processing apparatus comprising:

Inputting means (e.g., Paragraph 0092 a graphics apparatus for inputting a two-dimensional array of an image in Figs. 1-2, e.g., in a two-dimensional coordinate system set forth in Paragraph 0095, that defines latent-image portion, background area-latent-image peripheral portion and additional information including the authenticity discrimination pattern-

9 or wave pattern, moiré pattern, emboss pattern, etc. of Paragraph 0103) for inputting area-assignment information that defines latent-image area and background area and additional information (Paragraph 0095);

Determination means for determining a plurality of positions in the background area which is defined by the area-assignment information and a plurality of positions in the latent-image area which is defined by the area-assignment information (e.g., Paragraph 0092-0097 wherein a printed matter is output after determining by the image setter which determines a two-dimensional array of an image in Figs. 1-2, e.g., in a two-dimensional coordinate system set forth in Paragraph 0095, that defines latent-image portion which as dense dots, background area-latent-image peripheral portion which has sparse dots); and

Generating means for generating patterned image data by arranging first dots of a first dot size at the determined positions in the background area and arranging second dots of a second dot size that is a smaller dot size than the first dot size at the determined positions in the latent-image area (e.g., Paragraph 0092-0097 wherein a printed matter is output and thereby generated by the image setter which generates an image of printed matter, e.g., in a two-dimensional coordinate system set forth in Paragraph 0095, that defines latent-image portion which as dense dots, background area-latent-image peripheral portion which has sparse dots), the first dots being easily reproducible when copied and the second dots not being easily reproducible when copied (See Paragraph 0084 wherein dense dots are not reproducible when copied and sparse dots are easily reproducible when copied by a copying machine; see Paragraph 0014-0015, 0086-0087 and Paragraph 0188),

Wherein (SEE MPEP 2111.04 [R-3] “Adapted to,” “Adapted for,” “Wherein,” and “Whereby” Clauses. Claim scope is not limited by claim language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed, or by claim language that does not limit a claim to a particular structure. The Examiner suggests deleting the “wherein” clause to positively identify the following claim limitation. Despite the above remarks, for the seek of compactness of prosecution, the following limitation is still treated to show that prior art teaches or suggests the limitation), it can be determined whether an image on a printed material is an original because the additional information can be extracted from the original image based on the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the latent-image area (Paragraph 0088-0090 wherein the additional information can be extracted when irradiated with the UV rays from the original image on a printed material), and the additional information cannot be extracted from a copy (See Paragraph 0084 wherein dense dots are not reproducible when copied and sparse dots are easily reproducible when copied by a copying machine and thereby a copy of the printed material does not contain the additional information; see Paragraph 0014-0015, 0086-0087 and Paragraph 0188).

Matsunoshita teaches an image-processing apparatus comprising:

Inputting means (e.g., Paragraph 0050) for inputting area-assignment information (e.g., Paragraph 0082, the cited reference discloses plural kinds of code data such as two dimensionally arrayed in an area of predetermined size to generate a unit two-dimensional array for the copy inhibition code arrays and the unit two-dimensional arrays are repeatedly arrayed in both the vertical and horizontal directions) that defines latent-image area and background

area (*e.g., Matsunoshita discloses in Figs. 5(A)-6(C) the additional information such as the copy inhibition information (Paragraph 0062) is attached to the latent image area wherein the relatively small dots within the latent image characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine (Paragraph 0101) and the large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced. The original document image may be printed. The copy inhibition information is attached to the latent image area to distinguish from an original image*);

Determination means for determining a plurality of positions in the background area which is defined by the area-assignment information and a plurality of positions in the latent-image area which is defined by the area assignment information (*e.g., Matsunoshita has taught in Paragraph 0092 that a pattern number array as corresponding to the claim limitation of the area assignment information is generated having the same size as of the whole latent image wherein the values of the elements of the pattern number array are 0s, or 1s on the whole image; in Paragraph 0083, Matsunoshita has taught the pattern number array is such that latent image characters are depicted by the pattern number (*e.g., 2s*) according to the predetermined rules on the background in which the copy inhibition codes are condition codes are arrayed and in Paragraph 0090, Matsunoshita has taught that the periphery of the rectangular area having given vertical and horizontal sizes is entirely defined by 1s; see Paragraph 0100 wherein Matsunoshita has taught that the pattern images inside the latent image characters are different from those outside the latent image*);

Generating means for generating a pattern image data by arranging first dots of a first dot size at the determined positions in the background area and arranging second dots of a second dot size that is a smaller dot size than the first dot size at the determined

positions in the latent image area, the first dots being easily reproducible when copied and the second dots not being easily reproducible when copied (e.g., Paragraph 0101; the relatively large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced, but relatively small dots within the latent image characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine; moreover, the document image and the background image containing a number of pattern images may have dots of different sizes; Figs. 3-4, 6(A)-6(B), Paragraph 0005, 0016, 0021, 0027, 0066-0069, 0100, 0101; the background image is generated having a size smaller than the document image; Paragraph 0160);

Wherein (SEE MPEP 2111.04 [R-3] “Adapted to,” “Adapted for,” “Wherein,” and “Whereby” Clauses. Claim scope is not limited by claim language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed, or by claim language that does not limit a claim to a particular structure. The Examiner suggests deleting the “wherein” clause to positively identify the following claim limitation. Despite the above remarks, for the seek of compactness of prosecution, the following limitation is still treated to show that prior art teaches or suggests the limitation), it can be determined whether an image on a printed material is an original because the additional information can be extracted from the original image based on the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the latent-image area (See Paragraph 0147-0148 and 0161-0163 wherein the original image on the printed material is read and the additional information can be extracted at least by the copying machine and the copy operation of the original image/document is allowed or prohibited. See Paragraph 0111 wherein the additional information such as the copy inhibition codes are expressed as plural kinds of pattern images are read/detected/extracted with

Art Unit: 2628

the image reading process; moreover, in Paragraph 0116-0118 and 0129-0131 the copy inhibiting information can be extracted according to the dots or the binary data 0 and 1; see also Paragraph 0162-0163 and 0122-0123; see Paragraph 0117-0118 for the extraction of the additional information such as the copy inhibition information and condition information. See Paragraph 0089 wherein the size of the unit two-dimensional array of the condition code array as of the copy inhibition code array is defined by 20 vertical by 20 horizontal) and the additional information cannot be extracted from a copy (Matsunoshita discloses in Figs. 5(A)-6(C) the additional information such as the copy inhibition information (Paragraph 0062) is attached to the latent image area wherein the relatively small dots within the latent image characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine; Paragraph 0101 and the large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced. Because the additional information and dots in the latent-image area are not reproducible in the copy and thereby cannot be extracted from a copy).

Matsunoshita discloses in Paragraph 0111 the additional information such as the copy inhibition codes are expressed as plural kinds of pattern images are read/detected/**extracted with the image reading process**; moreover, in Paragraph 0116-0118 and 0129-0131 the copy inhibiting information can be **extracted** according to the dots or the binary data 0 and 1; see also Paragraph 0162-0163 and 0122-0123; see Paragraph 0117-0118 for the extraction of the additional information such as the copy inhibition information and condition information. See Paragraph 0089 wherein the size of the unit two-dimensional array of the condition code array as of the copy inhibition code array is defined by 20 vertical by 20 horizontal.

Matsunoshita discloses in Figs. 5(A)-6(C) the latent image area and the additional information such as the copy inhibition information (Paragraph 0062) is attached to the latent image area wherein the relatively small dots within the latent image characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine (Paragraph 0101) and the large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced.

In other words, Matsunoshita clearly shows that additional information is ALSO attached to the latent image area. For example, Matsunoshita discloses in Figs. 5(A)-6(C) the latent image area and the additional information such as the copy inhibition information (Paragraph 0062) is attached to the latent image area wherein the relatively small dots within the latent image characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine in which the character image is snow white not containing characters and graphics (Paragraph 0101) and the large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced. See paragraph 0110 that the characters embedded as a latent image comes forth into view when the document image is copied. See also Paragraph 0160 that the background image is located in a predetermined location of the document image.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 54-56 and 63-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 63-66 and 69-70:

Claim 66 recites “a computer-readable storage medium capable of storing computer-executable instructions for performing an image processing method”. However, “capable of storing” does not mean computer-executable instructions are stored in a computer-readable storage medium. There is no structural and functional interrelationship between the instructions and the rest of the computer to permit the instructions’ functionality to be realized. Claim 66 is, thus, non-statutory.

Additionally, since claim 66 includes a 101 judicial exception, claim 66 must be for a practical application of the judicial exception. As is, claim 66 failed to recite either a physical transformation or produces a useful and tangible result. Thus, claim 66 is also non-statutory for this reason.

Claims 63-65 and 69-70 are the parallel method claims to the apparatus claims discussed above, thus, they are not statutory for the same reasons discussed above.

Claims 54-56 and 67-68:

Claim 54 applies a computer program as part of a seemingly patentable apparatus, however, claim 54 in reality seeks patent protection for the computer program as evidenced by claim 66 in the abstract. Computer program per se is neither computer components nor statutory process. Thus, claim 54 is non-statutory.

Additionally, since claim 54 includes a 101 judicial exception, claim 54 must be for a practical application of the judicial exception. As is, claim 54 failed to recite either a physical transformation or produces a useful and tangible result. Thus, claim 54 is also non-statutory for this reason.

Claims 55-56 and 67-68 are non-statutory for the same reasons discussed above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 54-56 and 63-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shimada et al. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0021311 (hereinafter Shimada).

Re Claims 54, 63 and 66:

Shimada teaches an image processing apparatus comprising:

Inputting means (*e.g., Paragraph 0092 a graphics apparatus for inputting a two-dimensional array of an image in Figs. 1-2, e.g., in a two-dimensional coordinate system set forth in Paragraph 0095, that defines latent-image portion, background area-latent-image*

peripheral portion and additional information including the authenticity discrimination pattern-9 or wave pattern, moiré pattern, emboss pattern, etc. of Paragraph 0103) for inputting area-assignment information that defines latent-image area and background area and additional information (Paragraph 0095);

Determination means for determining a plurality of positions in the background area which is defined by the area-assignment information and a plurality of positions in the latent-image area which is defined by the area-assignment information (e.g., Paragraph 0092-0097 wherein a printed matter is output after determining by the image setter which determines a two-dimensional array of an image in Figs. 1-2, e.g., in a two-dimensional coordinate system set forth in Paragraph 0095, that defines latent-image portion which as dense dots, background area-latent-image peripheral portion which has sparse dots); and

Generating means for generating patterned image data by arranging first dots of a first dot size at the determined positions in the background area and arranging second dots of a second dot size that is a smaller dot size than the first dot size at the determined positions in the latent-image area (e.g., Paragraph 0092-0097 wherein a printed matter is output and thereby generated by the image setter which generates an image of printed matter, e.g., in a two-dimensional coordinate system set forth in Paragraph 0095, that defines latent-image portion which as dense dots, background area-latent-image peripheral portion which has sparse dots), the first dots being easily reproducible when copied and the second dots not being easily reproducible when copied (See Paragraph 0084 wherein dense dots are not reproducible when copied and sparse dots are easily reproducible when copied by a copying machine; see Paragraph 0014-0015, 0086-0087 and Paragraph 0188),

Wherein (SEE MPEP 2111.04 [R-3] "Adapted to," "Adapted for," "Wherein," and "Whereby" Clauses. Claim scope is not limited by claim language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed, or by claim language that does not limit a claim to a particular structure. The Examiner suggests deleting the "wherein" clause to positively identify the following claim limitation. Despite the above remarks, for the seek of compactness of prosecution, the following limitation is still treated to show that prior art teaches or suggests the limitation), **it can be determined whether an image on a printed material is an original because the additional information can be extracted from the original image based on the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the latent-image area** (Paragraph 0088-0090 wherein the additional information can be extracted when irradiated with the UV rays from the original image on a printed material), **and the additional information cannot be extracted from a copy** (See Paragraph 0084 wherein dense dots are not reproducible when copied and sparse dots are easily reproducible when copied by a copying machine and thereby a copy of the printed material does not contain the additional information; see Paragraph 0014-0015, 0086-0087 and Paragraph 0188).

Re Claims 55 and 64:

Shimada further discloses the claim limitation wherein the additional information can be extracted based on the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the vertical axis and the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and the predetermined positions in the horizontal axis (Paragraph 0088-

0090 wherein the additional information can be extracted when irradiated with the UV rays from the original image on a printed material).

Re Claims 56 and 65:

Shimada further discloses the claim limitation wherein the additional information can be extracted based on whether the result of multiplication of the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the vertical axis and the difference between the positions of the arranged second dots and the predetermined positions in the horizontal axis is negative or positive (See Paragraph 0082-00910, 0095-0098 and 0128 wherein the predetermined positions are determined for the pattern image with the predetermined rules for generating the pattern number array and the additional information is extracted based on the pattern number array according to Shimada).

Claims 67-70:

Shimada further discloses the claim limitation wherein the positions of the arranged second dots correspond to the predetermined positions on a one-to-one basis and wherein the length between each of positions of the arranged second dots and each of the predetermined positions is less than half of the length between two of the predetermined positions (See Paragraph 0082-00910, 0095-0098 and 0128 wherein the predetermined positions are determined for the pattern image with the predetermined rules for generating the pattern number array and the additional information is extracted based on the pattern number array according to Shimada).

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 54-56 and 63-70 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by
Matsunoshita US 2003/0179412 A1 (hereinafter Matsunoshita).

Matsunoshita teaches an image-processing apparatus comprising:

Inputting means (*e.g., Paragraph 0050*) **for inputting area-assignment information** (*e.g., Paragraph 0082, the cited reference discloses plural kinds of code data such as two dimensionally arrayed in an area of predetermined size to generate a unit two-dimensional array for the copy inhibition code arrays and the unit two-dimensional arrays are repeatedly arrayed in both the vertical and horizontal directions*) **that defines latent-image area and background area** (*e.g., Matsunoshita discloses in Figs. 5(A)-6(C) the additional information such as the copy inhibition information (Paragraph 0062) is attached to the latent image area wherein the relatively small dots within the latent image characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine (Paragraph 0101) and the large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced. The original document image may be printed. The copy inhibition information is attached to the latent image area to distinguish from an original image*);

Determination means for determining a plurality of positions in the background area which is defined by the area-assignment information and a plurality of positions in the

latent-image area which is defined by the area assignment information (e.g., *Matsunoshita has taught in Paragraph 0092 that a pattern number array as corresponding to the claim limitation of the area assignment information is generated having the same size as of the whole latent image wherein the values of the elements of the pattern number array are 0s, or 1s on the whole image; in Paragraph 0083, Matsunoshita has taught the pattern number array is such that latent image characters are depicted by the pattern number (e.g., 2s) according to the predetermined rules on the background in which the copy inhibition codes are condition codes are arrayed and in Paragraph 0090, Matsunoshita has taught that the periphery of the rectangular area having given vertical and horizontal sizes is entirely defined by 1s; see Paragraph 0100 wherein Matsunoshita has taught that the pattern images inside the latent image characters are different from those outside the latent image);*

Generating means for generating a pattern image data by arranging first dots of a first dot size at the determined positions in the background area and arranging second dots of a second dot size that is a smaller dot size than the first dot size at the determined positions in the latent image area, the first dots being easily reproducible when copied and the second dots not being easily reproducible when copied (e.g., *Paragraph 0101; the relatively large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced, but relatively small dots within the latent image characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine; moreover, the document image and the background image containing a number of pattern images may have dots of different sizes; Figs. 3-4, 6(A)-6(B), Paragraph 0005, 0016, 0021, 0027, 0066-0069, 0100, 0101; the background image is generated having a size smaller than the document image; Paragraph 0160*);

Wherein (SEE MPEP 2111.04 [R-3] “Adapted to,” “Adapted for,” “Wherein,” and “Whereby” Clauses. Claim scope is not limited by claim language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed, or by claim language that does not limit a claim to a particular structure. The Examiner suggests deleting the “wherein” clause to positively identify the following claim limitation. Despite the above remarks, for the seek of compactness of prosecution, the following limitation is still treated to show that prior art teaches or suggests the limitation), it can be determined whether an image on a printed material is an original because the additional information can be extracted from the original image based on the positions of the arranged second dots and predetermined positions in the latent-image area (See Paragraph 0147-0148 and 0161-0163 wherein the original image on the printed material is read and the additional information can be extracted at least by the copying machine and the copy operation of the original image/document is allowed or prohibited. See Paragraph 0111 wherein the additional information such as the copy inhibition codes are expressed as plural kinds of pattern images are read/detected/extracted with the image reading process; moreover, in Paragraph 0116-0118 and 0129-0131 the copy inhibiting information can be extracted according to the dots or the binary data 0 and 1; see also Paragraph 0162-0163 and 0122-0123; see Paragraph 0117-0118 for the extraction of the additional information such as the copy inhibition information and condition information. See Paragraph 0089 wherein the size of the unit two-dimensional array of the condition code array as of the copy inhibition code array is defined by 20 vertical by 20 horizontal) and the additional information cannot be extracted from a copy (Matsunoshita discloses in Figs. 5(A)-6(C) the additional information such as the copy inhibition information (Paragraph 0062)

is attached to the latent image area wherein the relatively small dots within the latent image characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine; Paragraph 0101 and the large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced. Because the additional information and dots in the latent-image area are not reproducible in the copy and thereby cannot be extracted from a copy).

Matsunoshita discloses in Paragraph 0111 the additional information such as the copy inhibition codes are expressed as plural kinds of pattern images are read/detected/**extracted with the image reading process**; moreover, in Paragraph 0116-0118 and 0129-0131 the copy inhibiting information can be **extracted** according to the dots or the binary data 0 and 1; see also Paragraph 0162-0163 and 0122-0123; see Paragraph 0117-0118 for the extraction of the additional information such as the copy inhibition information and condition information. See Paragraph 0089 wherein the size of the unit two-dimensional array of the condition code array as of the copy inhibition code array is defined by 20 vertical by 20 horizontal.

Matsunoshita discloses in Figs. 5(A)-6(C) the latent image area and the additional information such as the copy inhibition information (Paragraph 0062) is attached to the latent image area wherein the relatively small dots within the latent image characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine (Paragraph 0101) and the large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced.

In other words, Matsunoshita clearly shows that additional information is **ALSO** attached to the latent image area. For example, Matsunoshita discloses in Figs. 5(A)-6(C) the latent image area and the additional information such as the copy inhibition information (Paragraph 0062) is attached to the latent image area wherein the relatively small dots within the latent image

characters cannot be faithfully copied by the copying machine in which the character image is snow white not containing characters and graphics (Paragraph 0101) and the large dots outside the latent image are faithfully reproduced. See paragraph 0110 that the characters embedded as a latent image comes forth into view when the document image is copied. See also Paragraph 0160 that the background image is located in a predetermined location of the document image.

Re Claims 55 and 64:

Matsunoshita further discloses the claim limitation wherein the additional information can be extracted based on the difference between the positions of the arranged dots and predetermined positions in the vertical axis and the difference between the positions of the arranged dots and the predetermined positions in the horizontal axis (See Matsunoshita Figs. 5(A)-6(F) has taught the horizontal and vertical positions and the arranged dots relative to the predetermined positions 0 in the vertical axis and predetermined positions 0 in the horizontal axis. See Paragraph 0089-00910 and 0095 wherein the coordinate positions are determined).

Re Claims 56 and 65:

Matsunoshita further discloses the claim limitation wherein the additional information can be extracted based on whether the result of multiplication of the difference between the positions of the arranged dots and predetermined positions in the vertical axis and the difference between the positions of the arranged dots and the predetermined positions in the horizontal axis is negative or positive (See Matsunoshita Figs. 5(A)-6(F) has taught the horizontal and vertical positions and the arranged dots relative to the predetermined positions 0 in the vertical axis and predetermined positions 0 in the horizontal axis).

Claims 67-70:

Matsunoshita further discloses the claim limitation wherein the positions of the arranged second dots correspond to the predetermined positions on a one-to-one basis (See Figs. 5(A)-(C)) and wherein the length between each of positions of the arranged second dots and each of the predetermined positions is less than half of the length between two of the predetermined positions (Figs. 5(A)-5(F)).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (571) 272-7665. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 6:30 (Mon-Thu).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on (571) 272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jcw

Jimmy